On August 14, 1945, Alfred Eisenstaedt took a picture of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square, minutes after they heard of Japan’s surrender to the United States. Two weeks later LIFE magazine published that image. It became one of the most famous WWII photographs in history (and the most celebrated photograph ever published in the world’s dominant photo-journal), a cherished reminder of what it felt like for the war to finally be over. Everyone who saw the picture wanted to know more about the nurse and sailor, but Eisenstaedt had no information and a search for the mysterious couple’s identity took on a dimension of its own. In 1979 Eisenstaedt thought he had found the long lost nurse. And as far as almost everyone could determine, he had. For the next thirty years Edith Shain was known as the woman in the photo of V-J Day, 1945, Times Square. In 1980 LIFE attempted to determine the sailor’s identity . Many aging warriors stepped forward with claims, and experts weighed in to support one candidate over another. Chaos ensued.

Read the following articles and watch the video posted to familiarize yourself with the topic before writing your essay.

**Sailor, nurse from iconic VJ Day photo reunited**

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/sailor-nurse-from-iconic-vj-day-photo-reunited/>

**Sailor and nurse who were pictured kissing in celebration of end of second world war are reunited in Times Square 67 years later**  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2187071/Times-Square-Sailor-nurse-kissing-iconic-WWII-photograph-reunited.html>

Prompt: The most famous photograph of Times Square is surely Alfred Eisenstaedt’s chestnut of the kissing couple, which summed up the national mood in 1945; it combined all the right elements: the returning soldier, the woman who welcomed him back and Times Square, the crossroads that symbolized home. How does this iconic photograph define the image of our society and culture (analyze the image to further explain your response in essay format).